

Geo 08: Student Worksheet

Interpreting Population Pyramids

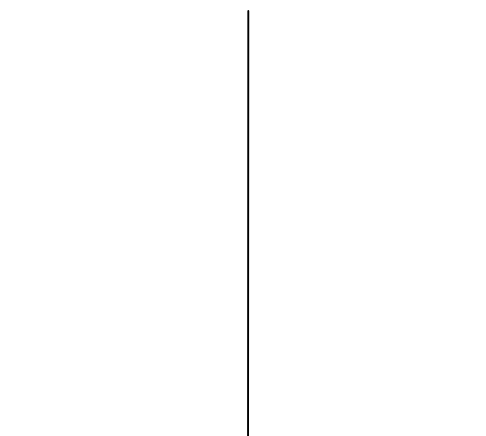


Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

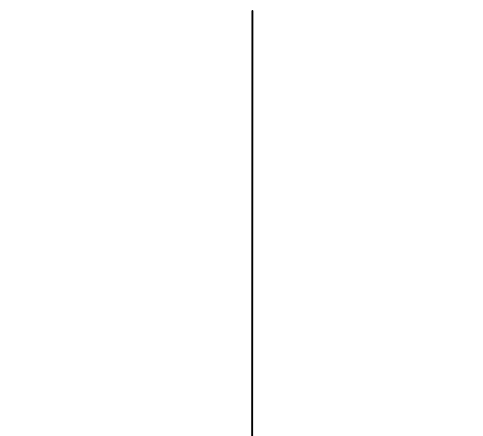
Task One: How Does the Australian Population Pyramid change over time?

Use the [animated population pyramids](#) on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

1. Create two labelled sketches of the Australian population pyramid in 1971 and the projected shape of the pyramid in 2056.



Sketch of Pyramid in 1971



Sketch of Pyramid in 2056

Task Two: Interpreting Population Pyramids

2. The term 'population profile' is often preferred to the term 'population pyramid'. Explain why this may be the case.
3. Work in small groups and brainstorm reasons for the changing shape of the population pyramid for Australia between 1971 and 2056. List your ideas under the headings of social, economic and historical factors.

Social	Economic	Historical



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7. Social, historical, environmental, economic and political circumstances of an area will affect the demographic characteristics of a population and hence its population pyramid or profile. Test your understanding of population pyramids by drawing pyramids for the following:

A coastal town with a large number of retirees.	
A rural area where many young people have left to undertake tertiary studies.	
A small town with a tertiary institution.	
A region devastated by war.	

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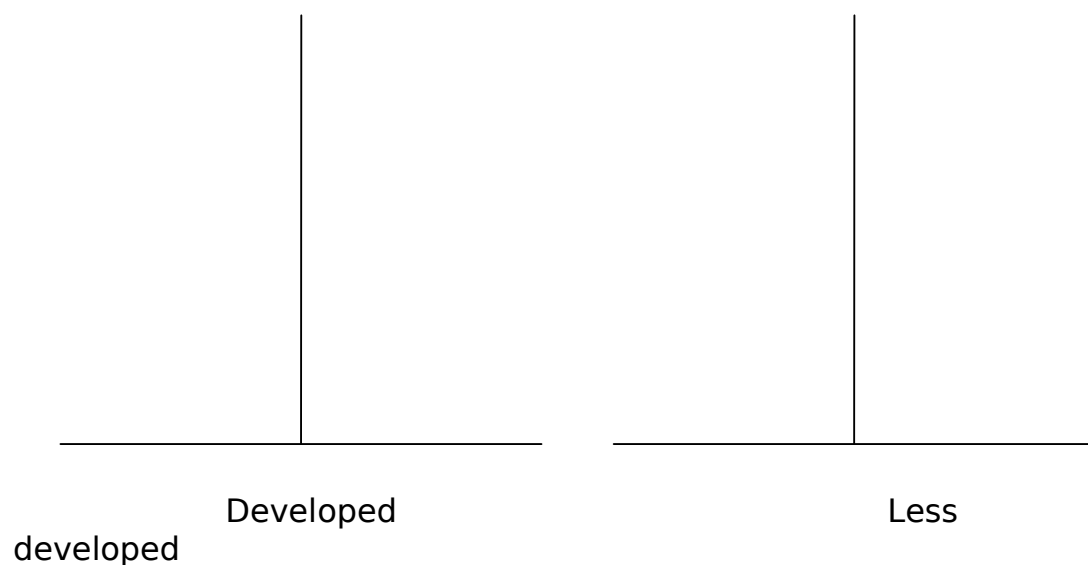


A mining town with an influx of young males.

Task Three: Developing a Theory

8. Explain what is meant by the terms 'economically developed' and 'economically less developed' country' and provide several examples of each.

9. On the diagrams below sketch what you expect a population profile to look like for an 'economically developed' and 'economically less developed' country'.



10. Visit the [US Census Bureau International Data Base \(IDB\)](https://data.census.gov/tables/) website. Select the 'Data access' tab for an economically

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developed and an economically less developed country and then select 'Population pyramid' to download pyramids for your chosen countries.

11. How similar are the chosen countries to your expectations for countries in these two categories. Explain your answer with reference to the pyramids.